

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) A method for providing cellular service aboard a ship, comprising:

providing first and second cellular coverage zones, the first zone being substantially confined to an interior of the ship and the second zone providing an effective range of coverage above-deck or outside the ship;

reducing, in response to interference above a desired level between the second zone and a land-based cellular node, the effective range of coverage of the second zone;

wherein said reducing does not change the area covered by the first cellular coverage zone.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein said reducing the effective range of coverage lowers the interference to below the desired level.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:
suspending the provision of cellular service in the second zone in response to the interference exceeding the desired level regardless of said reducing; and
continuing cellular service in the first zone during said suspending.

12. (Previously Presented) A method of providing ship-based cellular service aboard a ship as the ship approaches another cellular network, the method comprising:

providing, when the ship is outside of a first predetermined distance from the another cellular network, a first effective range for the ship-based cellular coverage;

maintaining, when the ship is outside of a second distance from the another cellular network but within the first distance, the ship-based cellular service at a second effective range, which is smaller than the first effective range; and

suspending said ship-based cellular service when the ship is within the second distance.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the first effective range is substantially fixed.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the second effective range is variable.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the first distance is a minimum distance at which the first effective range of the ship-based cellular service will not provide cellular service to users within the another cellular network.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the second distance is a minimum distance at which the second effective range of the ship-based cellular service will not overlap with a predetermined area around the another cellular network.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the first distance is a minimum distance at which the first effective range of the ship-based cellular service will not extend into the area determined by the second distance.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the second distance is based on an outer boundary set by a controlling legal authority within which said ship is not permitted to provide cellular service.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the ship-based cellular coverage is a first ship-based cellular coverage that extends above deck and outside the ship, the method further comprising:

providing a second ship-based cellular coverage that extends below deck independent of said providing the first ship-based cellular coverage;

wherein said providing a second first ship-based cellular coverage is not interrupted by said maintaining or said suspending.

20. (Previously Presented) A ship, comprising:

first and second sections of said ship, said first section including the external portions of the ship and said second section including at least below decks areas of said ship;

first and second cellular networks dedicated to said first and second sections, respectively;

means for controlling an effective range of the first cellular network to prevent the first cellular network from providing cellular service to cellular devices outside the legal jurisdiction of the ship;

wherein an effective range of the second cellular network does not change in association with a change in the effective range of the first cellular network.

21. (Previously Presented) The step of claim 20, wherein said means for controlling will set the effective range of the first cellular network to:

a predetermined level when the effective range does not overlap with the coverage of another cellular network;

a reduced level when the predetermined level would overlap with the coverage of another cellular network; and

zero when overlap cannot be avoided regardless of how small the reduced level is.

>